

BAS

- For him was I exchang'd and ransom'd;
But with a baser man of arms by far,
Once, in contempt, they would have barter'd me.
Shaksp. Henry VI. p. i.
- Then as thou wilt dispose the rest,
To those who, at the market rate,
Can barter honour for estate.
Prior.
- I see nothing left us, but to truck and barter our goods, like
the wild Indians, with each other.
Swift.
2. Sometimes it is used with the particle *away* before the thing
given.
If they will barter *away* their time, methinks they should at
least have some ease in exchange.
Decay of Piety.
- He also bartered *away* plums that would have rotted in a
week, for nuts that would last good for his eating a whole
year.
Locke.
- BAR'TER. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The act or practice of traf-
ficking by exchange of commodities; sometimes the thing given
in exchange.
From England they may be furnished with such things as
they may want, and, in exchange or barter, send other things,
with which they may abound.
Bacon's Advice to Villiers.
- He who corrupteth English with foreign words, is as wise as
ladies that change plate for china; for which, I think, the lau-
dable traffick of old cloaths is much the fairest barter.
Pelton on the Clocks.
- BAR'TERER. *n. f.* [from barter.] He that trafficks by exchange
of commodities.
- BAR'TERY. *n. f.* [from barter.] Exchange of commodities.
It is a received opinion, that, in most ancient ages, there
was only bartery or change of commodities amongst most na-
tions.
Camden's Remains.
- BAR'TRAM. *n. f.* A plant; the same with *pellitory*; which see.
- BAR'TON. *n. f.* The demesne lands of a manour; the manour-
house itself; and sometimes the out-houses.
Blount.
- BASE. *adj.* [*bas*, Fr. *bas*, Ital. *basso*, Span. *bas*, low Latin;
basus.]
1. Mean; vile; worthless.
The harvest white plumb is a *base* plumb, and the white
date plumb are no very good plumbs.
Bacon's Natural Hist.

Pyreus was only famous for counterfeiting all *base* things,
as earthen pitchers, a scullery; whereupon he was surnamed
Rupographus.
Peacocks.

 - 2. Of mean spirit; disingenuous; illiberal; ungenerous; low;
without dignity of sentiment.
Since the perfections are such in the party I love, as the feel-
ing of them cannot come unto any unnober heart; shall that
heart, lifted up to such a height, be counted *base*?
Sidney.

It is *base* in his adversaries thus to dwell upon the excesses of
a passion.
Atterbury.

I might be *base* enough to suspect, that you acted like some
philosopher, who writ much better upon virtue than he prac-
tised it.
Swift.

 - 3. Of low station; of mean account; without dignity of rank;
without honour.
If the lords and chief men degenerate, what shall be hoped
of the peasants and *base* people?
Spenser on Ireland.

If that rebellion
Came like itself, in *base* and abject routs,
You reverend father, and these noble lords,
Had not been here.
Shaksp. Henry IV. p. ii.

It could not else be, I should prove so *base*,
To sue and be denied such common grace.
Shak. Timon.

And I will yet be more vile than this, and will be *base* in
mine own sight.
2 Sam. vi. 22.

Insurrections of *base* people are commonly more furious in
their beginnings.
Bacon's Henry VII.

He whose mind
Is virtuous, is alone of noble kind;
Though poor in fortune, of celestial race,
And he commits the crime who calls him *base*.
Dryden.

 - 4. *Base-born*; born out of wedlock, and by consequence of no
honourable birth.
Why *base-born*? wherefore *base*?
When my dimensions are as well compact
As honest madam's issue.
Shaksp. King Lear.

This young lord lost his life with his father in the field, and
with them a *base* son.
Camden's Remains.

 - 5. Applied to metals: without value; it is used in this sense of all
metal except gold and silver.
A guinea is pure gold, if it has nothing but gold in it, with-
out any alloy or *base* metal.
Watts's Logick. - 6. Applied to sounds, deep; grave. It is more frequently writ-
ten *base*, though the comparative *baser* seems to require *base*.
In pipes, the lower the note holes be, and the further from
the mouth of the pipe, the more *base* sound they yield.
Bacon's Natural History, N° 178.

BASE-BORN. *adj.* Born out of wedlock.
But see thy *base-born* child, thy babe of shame,
Who, left by thee, upon our parish came.
Gay.

BASE-COURT. *n. f.* Lower court; not the chief court that leads
to the house.

BAS

- My lord, in the *base-court* he doth attend,
To speak with you.
Shaksp. Richard II.
- BASE-MINDED. *adj.* Mean spirited; worthless.
It signifieth, as it seemeth, no more than abject, *base-minded*,
false hearted, coward, or nidget.
Camden's Remains.
- BASE-VIOL. *n. f.* [usually written *base viol*.] An instrument
which is used in concerts for the *base* found.
At the very first grin he cast every human feature out of his
countenance; at the second, he became the head of a *base-viol*.
Addison. Spectator, N° 174.
- BASE. *n. f.* [*bas*, Fr. *bas*, Lat.]
1. The bottom of any thing; commonly used for the lower part
of a building, or column.
What if it tempt thee tow'rd the flood, my lord?
Or to the dreadful summit of the cliff,
That beetles o'er his *base* into the sea.
Shaksp. Hamlet.

Firm Dorick pillars found your solid *base*;
The fair Corinthian crowns the higher space.
Dryden.

Columns of polish'd marble firmly set
On golden *bases*, are his legs and feet.
Prior.

 - 2. The pedestal of a statue.
Men of weak abilities in great place, are like little statues
set on great *bases*, made the leis by their advancement.
Bacon.

Mercury was patron of flocks, and the ancients placed a ram
at the *base* of his images.
Broom's Notes on the Odyssey.

 - 3. That part of any ornament which hangs down, as housings.
Phalantus was all in white, having his *bases* and caparison
embroidered.
Sidney. - 4. The broad part of any body; as the bottom of a cone.
 - 5. Stockings, or perhaps the armour for the legs, from *bas*, Fr.
Nor shall it e'er be said that wight,
With gauntlet blue and *bases* white,
And round blunt truncheon by his side,
So great a man at arms defy'd.
Hudibras. - 6. The place from which racers or tilers run; the bottom of the
field.
He said; to their appointed *base* they went;
With beating heart th' expecting sign receive,
And, starting all at once, the barrier leave.
Dryden's Virg. - 7. The string that gives a *base* found.
At thy well sharpen'd thumb, from thore to thore,
The trebles squeak for fear, the *bases* roar.
Dryden's Macph. - 8. An old ruffick play; written by *Skinner*, says.
He with two triplings (lads, more like to run
The country *base*, than to commit such slaughter)
Made good the passage.
Shaksp. Cymbeline.

To BASE. *v. a.* [*basier*, Fr.] To embase; to make leis valu-
able by admixture of meaner metals.
I am doubtful whether men have sufficiently refined metals,
which we cannot *base*; as, whether iron, brass, and tin be re-
fined to the height?
Bacon's Natural History, N° 849.

BA'SELY. *adv.* [from *base*.] In a *base* manner; meanly; dishonestly.

 1. In a *base* manner; meanly; dishonestly.
The king is not himself, but *basely* led
By flatterers.
Shaksp. Richard II.

A lieutenant *basely* gave it up, as soon as Essex in his pas-
sage demanded it.
Clarendon.

With broken vows his fame he will not stain,
With conquest *basely* bought, and with inglorious gain.
Dryden.

 - 2. In *base* manner.
These two Mitylene brethren, *basely* born, crept out of a
small galliot unto the majesty of great kings.
Knolles's History of the Turks. - 3. *Base*ness. *n. f.* [from *base*.] Meanness; vileness; badness.
Such is the power of that sweet passion,
That it all fordid *base*ness doth expel.
Spens. Hymn on Love.

When a man's folly must be spread open before the angels,
and all his *base*ness ript up before those pure spirits, this will be
a double hell.
South.

Your soul's above the *base*ness of distrust:
Nothing but love could make you so unjust.
Dryd. Aureng.

 - 4. Vileness of metal.
We alleged the fraudulent obtaining and executing his pa-
tent, the *base*ness of his metal, and the prodigious sum to be
coined.
Swift. - 5. *Base*ness.
Why brand they us
With *base*? with *base*ness? *base*ness? *base*ness?
Shaksp. King Lear. - 6. Deepness of sound.
The just and measured proportion of the air percussed to-
wards the *base*ness or trebleness of tones, is one of the greatest
secrets in the contemplation of sounds.
Bacon's Nat. History.

To BASH. *v. n.* [probably from *base*.] To be ashamed; to be
confounded with shame.
His countenance was bold, and *base*ness not
For Guyon's looks, but scornful eye-glance at him shot.
Fairy Queen, b. ii. c. iv.

BASHA'W. *n. f.* [sometimes written *basia*.] A title of honour
and command among the Turks; the viceroy of a province;
the general of an army.
The

BAS

- The Turks made an expedition into Persia; and because of
the straits of the mountains, the *bas*haw consulted which way
they should get in.
Bacon's Apophthegms.
- BA'SHFUL. *adj.* [This word, with all those of the same race,
are of uncertain etymology. *Skinner* imagines them derived
from *base*, or mean; *Minshew*, from *verbasen*, Dut. to strike
with astonishment; *Junius*, from *bas*, which he finds in *He-
sychius* to signify shame. The conjecture of *Minshew* seems
most probable.]
1. Modest; shamefaced.
I never tempted her with word too large;
But, as a brother to his sister, shew'd
*Bas*ful sincerity, and comely love.
Shaksp. M. ado about N.
 2. Sheepish; vitiously modest.
He looked with an almost *bas*ful kind of modesty, as if he
feared the eyes of man.
Sidney.

Hence, *bas*ful cunning!
And prompt me plain and holy innocence.
Shaksp. Tempst.

Our author, anxious for his fame to night,
And *bas*ful in his first attempt to write,
Lies cautiously obscure.
Addison's Drummer, Prologue.

BA'SHFULLY. *adv.* [from *bas*ful.] Timorously; modestly.

BA'SHFULNESS. *n. f.* [from *bas*ful.]

 1. Modesty, as shewn in outward appearance.
Philoclea a little mused how to cut the thread even, with
eyes, cheeks and lips, whereof each sang their part, to make
up the harmony of *bas*fulness.
Sidney.

Such looks, such *bas*fulness might well adorn
The cheeks of youths that are more nobly born.
Dryden.
 2. Vitious or ruffick shame.
For fear had bequeathed his room to his kinsman *bas*fulness,
to teach him good manners.
Sidney, b. i.

There are others who have not altogether so much of this
foolish *bas*fulness, and who ask every one's opinion.
Dryden.

BA'SIL. *n. f.* [*basium*, Lat.] The name of a plant.
This plant hath a labiated flower of one leaf, whose crest is
upright, roundish, notched, and larger than the beard, which
is generally curled, or gently cut. Out of the flower cup rises
the point, attended by four embryos, that become so many
seeds inclosed in a husk, which was before the flower cup; the
husk is divided into two lips, the upper one growing upright,
and is split into two; but the under one is cut into several parts.
The species are eight; 1. Common *basil*. 2. Common *basil*,
with dark green leaves, and white flowers. 3. Lesser *basil*,
with narrow serrated leaves. 4. The least *basil*, commonly
called *basil-basil*, &c. These annual plants are propagated
from seeds in March, upon a moderate hot bed. In August
they perfect their seeds. The first sort is prescribed in medi-
cine; but the fourth is most esteemed for its beauty and scent.
Millar.

BA'SIL. *n. f.* The angle to which the edge of a joiner's tool is
ground away.

BA'SIL. *n. f.* The skin of a sheep tanned.
Di.

To BA'SIL. *v. a.* To grind the edge of a tool to an angle.
These chisels are not ground to such a *basil* as the joiners
chisels on one of the sides, but are *basil* away on both the
flat sides; so that the edge lies between both the sides in the
middle of the tool.
Mason's Mechanical Exercises.

BA'SILICA. *n. f.* [*basilica*, Lat.] The middle vein of the arm fo-
called, by way of pre-eminence. It is likewise attributed to
many medicines for the same reason.
Quincy.

BA'SILICAL. *adj.* [from *basilica*.] See BASILICA.] Belonging
BA'SILICK. } to the basilick vein.

These aneurisms following always upon bleeding the *basil-
lick* vein, must be aneurisms of the humeral artery.
Sharp.

BASILICK. *n. f.* [*basilique*, Fr. *basilique*.] A large hall, having
two ranges of pillars, and two isles or wings, with galleries
over them. These *basilicks* were first made for the palaces of
princes, and afterwards converted into courts of justice, and
lastly into churches; whence a *basilick* is generally taken for a
magnificent church, as the *basilick* of St. Peter at Rome.

BASILICON. *n. f.* [*basilicon*.] An ointment called also tetra-
pharmacum.
Quincy.

I made incision into the cavity, and put a pledget of *basil-
lick* over it.
Wise's Surgery.

BA'SILISK. *n. f.* [*basiliscus*, Lat. of *basiliscus*, of *basiliscus*, a king.]
1. A kind of serpent, called also a cockatrice, which is said to
drive away all others by his hissing, and to kill by looking.
Make me not fight like the *basilisk*;
I've look'd on thousands who have sped the better
By my regard, but kill'd none so.
Shaksp. Winter's Tale.

The *basilisk* was a serpent not above three palms long, and
differenced from other serpents by advancing his head, and
some white marks or coronary spots upon the crown.
Brown's Vulgar Errors.

 - 2. A species of cannon or ordnance.
There we imitate and practise to make swifter motions than
any you have; and to make them stronger and more violent
than yours are; exceeding your greatest cannons and *basilisks*.
Bacon's New Atlantis.

BA'SIN. *n. f.* [*basin*, Fr. *baie*, *basine*, Ital.] It is often written
basin, but not according to etymology.]

BAS

1. A small vessel to hold water for washing, or other uses.
Let one attend him with a silver *basin*,
Full of rosewater, and beset with flowers.
Shaksp. Taming of the Shrew.

We have little wells for infusions, where the waters take the
virtue quicker and better, than in vessels and *bassins*.
Bacon.

We behold a piece of silver in a *basin*, when water is put up-
on it, which we could not discover before, as under the verge
thereof.
Brown's Vulgar Errors.

 - 2. A small pond.
On one side of the walk you see this hollow *basin*, with its
several little plantations lying conveniently under the eye of the
beholder.
Spectator, N° 477. - 3. A part of the sea inclosed in rocks, with a narrow entrance.
The jutting land two ample bays divides;
The spacious *basin* arching rocks inclose,
A sure defence from every storm that blows.
Pope's Odyssey. - 4. Any hollow place capacious of liquids.
If this rotation does the seas affect,
The rapid motion rather would eject
The stores, the low capacious caves contain,
And from its ample *basin* cast the main.
Blackmore's Creat. - 5. A dock for repairing and building ships.
 - 6. In anatomy, a round cavity situated between the anterior ven-
tricles of the brain.
 - 7. A concave piece of metal by which glass grinders form their
convex glasses.
 - 8. A round shell or case of iron placed over a furnace, in which
hatters mould the matter of a hat into form.
 - 9. *Basin* of a balance; the same with the scales; one to hold the
weight, the other the thing to be weighed.
- BA'SIS. *n. f.* [*bas*is, Lat.]
1. The foundation of any thing, as of a column or a building.
It must follow, that paradise, being raised to this height,
must have the compass of the whole earth for a *bas*is and founda-
tion.
Raleigh's History of the World.

Ascend my chariot, guide the rapid wheels
That shake heav'n's *bas*is.
Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vi.

In altar-wife a stately pile they rear;
The *bas*is broad below, and top advanc'd in air.
Dryden.

 - 2. The lowest of the three principal parts of a column, which
are the *bas*is, *bas*is, and capital.
Upon our coming to the bottom, observing an English in-
scription upon the *bas*is, we read it over several times.
Addison's Freeholder, N° 47. - 3. That on which any thing is raised.
Such seems thy gentle height, made only proud
To be the *bas*is of that pompous load,
Than which a nobler weight no mountain bears.
Denham. - 4. The pedestal.
How many times shall Caesar bleed in sport,
That now on Pompey's *bas*is lies along
No worthier than the dust?
Shaksp. Julius Caesar. - 5. The groundwork or first principle of any thing.
Build me thy fortune upon the *bas*is of valour.
Shaksp. Twelfth Night.

The friendships of the world are oft
Confederacies in vice, or leagues of pleasure;
Ours has severest virtue for its *bas*is.
Addison's Cato.

To BASK. *v. a.* [*basken*, Dut. *Skinner*.] To warm by laying
out in the heat; used almost always of animals.
And stretched out all the chimney's length,
Bass at the fire his hairy strength.
Milton.

He was *basking* himself in the gleam of the sun.
L'Estrange.

'Tis all thy business, business how to shun,
To *bask* thy naked body in the sun.
Dryden's Persius.

To BASK. *v. n.* To lie in the warmth.
About him, and above, and round the wood,
The birds that haunt the borders of his flood;
That bath'd within, or *bask'd* upon his side,
To tuneful songs their narrow throats apply'd.
Dryden.

Unlock'd, in covers let her freely run,
To range thy courts, and *bask* before the sun.
Tickell.

Some in the fields of purest aether play,
And *bask* and whiten in the blaze of day.
Pope.

BA'SKET. *n. f.* [*basket*, Welch; *basketa*, Lat. *Barbara depictis*
venit basketa Britannia. Martial.] A vessel made of twigs,
rushes, or splinters, or some other slender body interwoven.
Here is a *basket*; he may creep in, and throw foul linen up-
on him, as if going to bucking.
Shak. Merry Wives of Windsor.

Thus while I sung, my sorrows I deceiv'd,
And bending others into *baskets* weav'd.
Dryden.

Poor Peg was forced to go hawking and peddling; now and
then carrying a *basket* of fish to the market.
Arbut. J. Bull.

BA'SKET-HILT. *n. f.* [from *basket* and *hilt*.] A hilt of a weapon
so made as to contain the whole hand, and defend it from be-
ing wounded.
His puissant sword unto his side,
Near his undaunted heart, was ty'd;
With *basket-hilt*, that would hold broth,
And serve for fight and dinner both.
Hudibras, cant. i.

Their